

LEAGUE OF NATIONS HAS FAILED TO STOP BIG OR LITTLE WARS

Articles of Covenant Are
Broken, Showing Im-
potence to Preserve Peace.

POLES INVADED RUSSIA

Soviet Made Counter Inva-
sion—Armenia and Georgia
Wiped Out by Reds.

LITHUANIA LOSES VILNA

Albania, Fiume, Silesia, Ire-
land, Chita, Irak and Tur-
key Disturbed.

Special Cable to The New York Herald.
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New York Herald Bureau,
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The question of whether or not the war preventing machinery of the League of Nations has broken down has been raised again by the crisis arising from the Turco-Greek war, which has been going on for two years without interference from the league. Since the league was formally set in motion, in January, 1920, there have been two major wars, and many threats of war, some of them reaching the stage of armed collision, with the League of Nations showing absolute impotence in functioning as a peace preserving agency.

Article 11 of the Covenant of the League of Nations says: "Any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any of the members of the league or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the whole league, and the league shall take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations. . . . It is also declared to be the friendly right of each member of the league to bring to the attention of the assembly or of the council any circumstance whatever affecting international relations which threaten to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends."

Article 16 of the league covenant furthermore says: "Should any member of the league resort to war in disregard of its covenant under articles 12, 13 or 15, it shall ipso facto be deemed to have committed an act of war against all other members of the league, which hereby undertakes immediately to subject it to the severance of all trade or financial relations, the prohibition of all intercourse between their nationals and the nationals of the covenant-breaking State, and the prevention of all financial, commercial or personal intercourse between the nationals of the covenant-breaking State and the nationals of any other State, whether a member of the league or not."

This is the record of what has occurred since these clauses of the covenant became operative in January, 1920, when the council of the league held its first meeting:

THE POLISH INVASION OF RUSSIA. This, as well as the Turco-Greek war, constituted a real war, and began a month after the league was organized. Poland, an original member of the league, without submitting its case to the league, and because of its disaffection with the frontier fixed after the general armistice, sent its armies into Russia and occupied that country as far as Kieff. The league council absolutely ignored this invasion, which led to:

THE RUSSIAN COUNTER INVASION OF POLAND. This occurred in the summer of 1920, when the Russian armies reached the walls of Warsaw and were only beaten back by the assistance of French generals and munitions. Here

again the league proved powerless to intervene and the hostilities were only terminated by the fixing of a Russo-Polish frontier at the conference of Riga.

THE ARMENIAN-TURKISH WAR. This began in the spring of 1920, when Turkish Nationalist troops invaded Armenia, which had been encouraged by the peace conference to set up an independent Government. In May, 1920, Armenia formally appealed to the league to protect her from this invasion. The Armenian army fought the Turks for several months, the league explaining that it couldn't do anything other than forward Armenia's appeal to the Supreme Council. In November, 1920, the League Assembly asked the council to safeguard Armenia and President Wilson was asked to act as mediator between Kemal and the Armenian nation. Kemal refused to accept Mr. Wilson's mediation, with the result that by the end of 1920 Armenia, unable to secure any assistance from the League of Nations by the invocation of its covenant clauses, was completely wiped out as an independent nation, part of it being taken by the Turks and part by the Russians, who organized a Bolshevik Government.

THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF PERSIA. Soviet armies in 1920 suddenly invaded Persia and after meeting and fighting with the Persians occupied the town of Ensel. In May, 1920, Persia, an original member of the league, formally appealed to the council for protection under the famous Article X of the covenant guaranteeing each member against territorial aggression. The council failed to meet and Persia, in despair, was obliged to make a peace treaty with the Russians under which the Russian troops were withdrawn, after Persia had made valuable economic concessions.

THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF GEORGIA. Georgia, a State recognized as independent by league members, was likewise invaded by the Soviet army and its Government overthrown. Repeated protests by the Georgian delegation at the headquarters of the League of Nations have failed to elicit any response.

THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN IMBROGLIO. In the fall of 1920 Lithuanian troops collided with the Poles in a dispute over the line between the two countries. The league council asked both Governments to suspend hostilities, which they promised to do, but a month later Gen. Zeligowski with several divisions captured Vilna. The league suggested a plebiscite and organized an international army which never got into action because the two countries refused to recognize the plebiscite. The Poles have remained in Vilna ever since despite various promises made by the league, and Vilna has now been formally incorporated in the Polish republic. The league at its last assembly virtually accepted this result in rejecting the appeal of Lithuania to reopen the question.

THE SERBO-ALBANIAN WAR. In 1921 Serbian irregulars invaded Albania, which appealed to the league, but the council refused to interfere. In November, 1921, Serbian regular forces advanced as far as Arroz and Tirana, the design being to crush Albania and march to Scutari to face the Italians. Encounters between the Albanians and Serbian forces cost many lives. The British Government, as a member of the league, invoked Article 11, and called for a meeting of the council. This caused a collapse of Serbian securities on the exchanges and resulted in Serbia calling off her war, agreeing to accept the boundary line of the Council of Ambassadors.

THE FUMIE DISPUTE. This, going on from the days of the peace conference, resulted in numerous armed clashes between D'Annunzio's forces, Italian regulars and the Serbian army without interference from the league, the dispute being finally settled by D'Annunzio's retirement and fixing compromise frontier along the Adriatic.

THE FIGHTING IN UPPER SILESIA. This was warfare waged between Poland and Germany under the very eyes of the Allies' occupying contingents. As in many other disputes, the league declined to interfere until requested by the allied Governments. This request came finally in the summer of 1921 after a truce had been called and a plebiscite held. The league's decision on the disputed boundary line was finally accepted but not without bloodshed.

THE IRISH WAR WITH ENGLAND. Fighting between the Irish forces and the British troops was actively resumed about the time the league be-

gan to function and continued until the Irish peace treaty. Naturally this was considered by Great Britain as an internal affair and, despite the manifest desire on the part of some nations to see the league use at least its good offices, England sternly repulsed any suggestion of the league's interference to stop the bloodshed.

JAPAN'S ADVENTURE IN THE CHITA REPUBLIC. Japan, one of the council members of the league, entered Chita against the desire of the Soviet advisers of the new republic. Her casualties were heavy, but she still remains in possession of Chita's strategic railroad.

ENGLAND'S TROUBLES WITH HER "PRIVAT" REPUBLIC OF IRAK. These involved several expeditions, all costly and menacing the peace of that part of Asia, but the league carefully ignored these, and for the present England remains in arms against the larger part of Mesopotamia, recognizing only the puppet King Feysul.

FINALLY THE TURKISH-GREEK WAR. Which might be said to have been begun with the movement of Greek armies eastward from the zone assigned Greece by the Allies, with the intention of extending the Greek empire in Asia Minor. Greece, though a member of the league, did not submit its case to the league before moving against the Turkish Nationalists, and under a strict interpretation of the covenant it would seem to have been blacklisted by her fellow members for waging a war without the league's approval. No nation, however, cared to bring the matter before the league council, nor did the council see fit to exercise its functions, with the result that the Greek war has gone on, ending in the Smyrna debacle, the league at the last assembly in Geneva going no further than to profess its readiness to take up the matter should the allied Governments so desire.

SUES BERLIN MUSEUM FOR PAINTING LOANED Merchant Revokes Gift Made When Called Copy.

Special Correspondence to The New York Herald.

BERLIN, Oct. 14.—Henry Lyon, wealthy Berlin merchant, has sued the director of the Municipal Art Museum charging deception which caused him to part with a priceless painting.

For several years Lyon has been the owner of "The Holy Hieronymus," by Pietro della Francesca. One day the director of the museum visited his collection and shattered Lyon's dreams by asserting that the picture was not a genuine but a very good copy. Lyon promptly decided to give the picture to the museum, and when it had been delivered Lyon heard that the director had told other collectors that the picture was genuine after all. Further investigation has convinced Lyon that the painting, executed in 1416, is genuine and has started suit for recovery.

'ERSATZ' COFFINS NOT SATISFYING TO BERLIN Cardboard Substitute Found to Hold Ashes of Dead.

Special Correspondence to The New York Herald.

BERLIN, Oct. 14.—"Ersatz" or substitute coffins are the latest goal of scientific research in Germany. Thus far, however, scientists confess that they have been unable to find anything which is equal for all around purposes to the old fashioned wooden box covered with crepe and highly ornamented with silver handles. A number of other materials have been substituted on account of the high price of timber, but in every case customers reported that the ersatz article did not give satisfaction. The imitations were displayed at the recent Frankfurt fair, but the public showed little interest in the new fangled ideas.

For cremation purposes, however, coffin makers have succeeded in interesting the coffin buying public in a heavy cardboard affair held rigid by a metal frame. The success of the substitute is considerable since the custom of cremation is increasing daily as funeral expenses mount skyward.

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